

Home of W.C. Loose in ruins

William Loose and his family were spared from any personal peril from the tornado. Upon returning to his house after the damage, he was quoted as saying "I don't know whether all of my family is safe or not." He was later reunited with his son Charles.

King family tragedy

Mrs. Clara King and her baby were killed in their home as a result of the tornado damage. Her husband, Fred King, died from his injuries en route to the hospital. The tornado claimed 17 lives in all but it altered the lives of countless families forever. Through the support of the community, they were able to rebuild.

Rising waters

This weather report for March 1913 shows that the high water level began at about 14.5 feet but by March 27 it had risen over 31 feet. In West Terre Haute, there were mass evacuations as families had to leave their homes and belongings behind. Mines, railroad lines, and businesses all shut down as the force of the water overwhelmed the course of everyday life.

Learning to rebuild

This photograph was taken shortly after the tornado left its mark. Families and the community gathered together to assess the damage and to consider how to help rebuild. Schools and factories were opened as makeshift shelters. A benefit fund was started almost immediately for those families who had lost their homes.